



A nonprofit corporation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lindsay Alexander
 Geoffrey Alexander
 Ryck Birch
 Toby Brewster
 Becca Brewster
 Seth Brewster
 Carol Brewster
 Francie Campbell
 Steve Cogswell
 Barbara Cogswell
 Nancy Cole
 Doug Cole
 Tom Clemence
 Nancy Dreyer
 David Gleason
 Spaulding Goetze
 Peter Herzig
 Michael Herzig
 Fred Howard
 Michele Howard
 Helene Kazanjian
 Joan Koffman
 C.J. Neshier
 Allison Smith
 Win Smith
 Bob Stone
 Beverly Stone
 David Weeks
 Amy Young
 Peter Young



ACCREDITED
 CAMP

American Camping Association®

FALL

2007

THE BIRCH BARK

P.O. Box 148, Waterford, Maine 04088

Winter: (207) 741-2930

Summer: (207) 583-4478

birchrock@aol.com

www.birchrock.org

Rich Deering '73, Alumni Director • Michael Mattson '83, Camp Director

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF BIRCH ROCK CAMP



William "Chief" Brewster

The Brewsters of Birch Rock

After six years of teaching and coaching at the Country Day School in Newton, MA with summers working at Camp Chewonki on the coast of Maine, William "Chief" Brewster and his wife Onie decided in the summer of 1925 to start a boys' camp in the foothills of Oxford County. Their objective was to locate their camp on the eastern shore of a clean, fresh-water lake so that their campers could appreciate healthy aquatic activities, physical fitness and the natural beauty of Maine sunsets. Moreover, the Brewsters were determined to create a

community built on tradition and human values as they articulated in their original camp diary:

"A boy cannot grow solely on food, sleep and safe living and playing conditions. He also needs the challenge of something new to learn and explore, the close contact with nature, and many kinds of challenges to meet and master other than those he can find in his home or his school."

With the help of the Morton Family of Paris Manufacturing Company and the camp's faithful neighbors Burton Sanderson and his sister Helen of Camp McWain for girls, the Brewsters and their partner, Bartlett Boyden, found just the location they were looking for in Burton Sanderson's western pasture and maple grove on the side of McWain Hill. Near the shore land, they found a graceful white birch tree growing on top of a boulder, from which the camp took its name. Birch Rock started its first season on July 1, 1926 with 13 campers and the main lodge, five cabins and a washhouse. Camp enrollment doubled to 26 in 1927 and tripled to 39 in 1928. Chief and Onie Brewster remained active in running the camp until their deaths in 1972 and 1982, respectively.



Pat and Carol Brewster

As summer camps move in generations of time, so, too, did Birch Rock. From their birth Chief and Onie's sons, William "Bill" Jr. and Seward "Pat" Brewster grew up at camp and later became campers. As teenagers, the boys attended Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, NH, where their father was Headmaster for twenty-two years. Bill and Pat spent many a summer at Birch Rock working along with their parents teaching swimming, canoeing and other aquatic and field activities. Both boys graduated from Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH and embarked on distinguished careers. Bill went on to medical school and he established his practice as well as securing a new home with his wife in Seattle, WA. Pat continued working at

Continued on page 2

camp as the Waterfront Director and Head Counselor during law school and brought his beloved wife Carol back with him to camp in 1955. Chief and Onie built a cabin for them to live by McWain Pond on the Camp premises. Carol, a graduate of Middlebury College in Vermont had a long history of working in camps.

Coming from the West Coast, Bill's children, Scott and Wenda, were introduced to their family camp in the mid 1950s. Birch Rock had its first female camper in Wenda. Although living at a great distance from Waterford, Maine, Bill's daughter Wenda has maintained a fond association with the Camp. When Pat's law career began to take-off, his summers at Birch Rock ended for him and Carol. His devotion to the Camp and its mission were embraced, however, by his three boys: Ben, Seth and Toby who came to Birch Rock in the late 1960's as campers.

After Chief passed away during the camp season of 1973, his devoted wife and partner Onie outreached to the camp community for a renewed sense of preservation for Birch Rock. Under the guidance of George Brett, Frank Carney and her youngest son Pat, the camp began to formulate a board of advisors that later would become trustees of the BRC Community. Onie called upon her devoted veteran staff: Mike and Phyllis Deneault and David Weeks to lead the camp. Mike and Phyllis were working at Milton Academy at the time, and David was working at the Kingsley School in Boston. For the next six summers, the Deneaults directed the camp as Dave assumed the Head Counselor role. In 1980, with the endorsement of the Brewster Family, Dave succeeded the retiring Deneaults and invited the Brewster brothers to be on his staff.

From 1979 through 1992, Ben, Seth and Toby returned to Birch Rock as counselors, leaders and directors. In the summer of 1982 Ben co-directed Birch Rock with Dave and his grandmother Onie passed away in December of that year. With his youngest brother Toby as his Head Counselor and partner, Ben directed Birch Rock for two successful summers while also working at the Waynflete School in Portland, ME. Ben's

untimely death was a shock to both the Brewster family and the BRC community. With the support of Birch Rock Board President Whizzer Wheeler and Pat Brewster, Toby Brewster assumed the directorship of Birch Rock in 1985. Working with his brother Seth and a fiercely loyal staff, Toby moved the camp forward and began to rebuild the future of Birch Rock seeking the support of many alumni and loyal Birch Rock families. Doug Dickey joined Toby as Co-director and later Toby's beautiful and dedicated bride Becca Glimp, helped the camp strengthen its leadership.

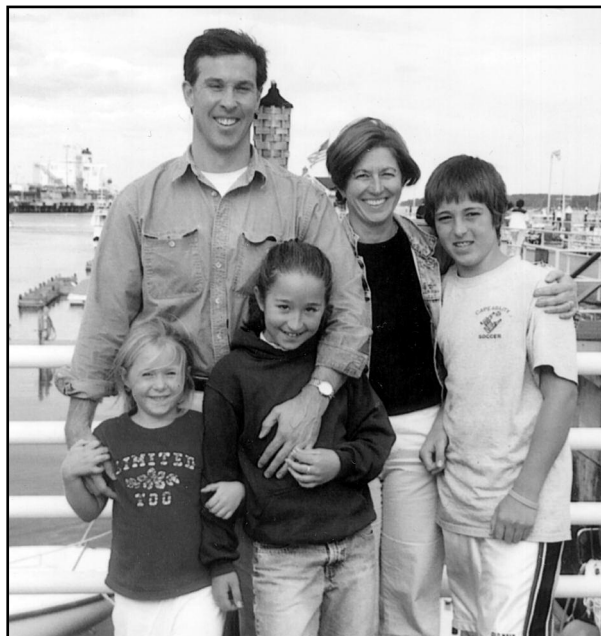
Toby and Becca along with the support of his brother Seth and his wife Helene Kazanjian rebuilt the camp's recruiting organization and community communication. The soul of Birch Rock was reinvigorated as the third generation of Brewsters provided a road map and strategic plan to preserve the leadership and future preservation of the Camp community. Birch Rock continued to operate with the support of the Brewster family's second and third generation guidance. In 1994 the Brewster family formally pledged to ensure the future of Birch Rock

by establishing a 501c3 nonprofit corporation from which the camp could continue to operate under the auspices of a formal board of trustees.

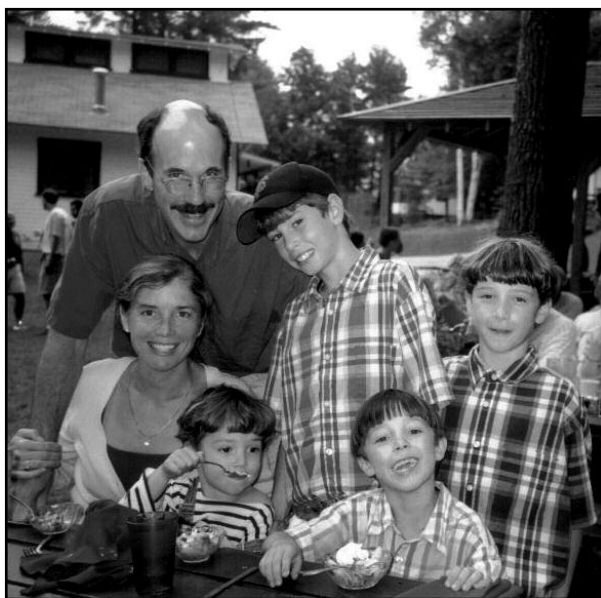
The camp corporation operates today under a 100 year lease from the Brewster family. Thanks to the strong will and spirited dedication of the Brewsters, alumni, parents and friends, the camp has grown from serving 26 campers per season to providing for the needs of approximately 135 campers with a seasonal staff of 35. The camp now offers 14 days introductory Cubs Camp (ages 7 -10) and 3.5 as well as 7 week sessions for boys ages 7-15. Additionally, a 24 day Wilderness Adventure Trip offering and Family Camp programs complement the regular boys' camp schedule. Birch Rock became an accredited member of American Camping Association and is active in the Maine Youth Camping Association. To strengthen its future, Birch Rock initiated an endowment fund— *A Call of Character: The Campaign for Birch Rock*.

Today, the Birch Rock Community operates under the leadership of Rich Deering and Mike Mattson but continues to have the unyielding support of the Brewster Family. Since the passing of her husband, Pat, Carol has remained an active member of the board of trustees and a loving grandparent to a fourth generation of Birch Rockers. Carol Brewster has enjoyed Seth and Helene's three children: Benjamin, Hannah and Victoria and Toby and Becca's four boys: William,

continued on page 4



Seth Brewster Family



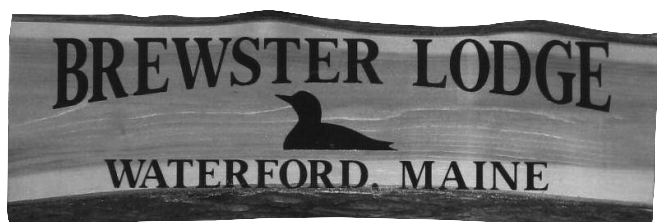
Toby Brewster Family

New Infirmary To Be Built & Named Brewster Lodge



At the annual summer board meeting, the BRC Board of Trustees have approved a building plan as a tribute to the Brewster legacy while enhancing the quality of health care and services for the camp community. Treasurer Michael Herzig stated: In naming the new infirmary the 'Brewster Lodge,' the Birch Rock community recognizes the boundless dedication of three generations of Brewsters to Birch Rock. This new building will retain the spirit and function of the original 'infirmary,' which was also the summer home to Onie in the years following Chief Brewster's death in 1973.

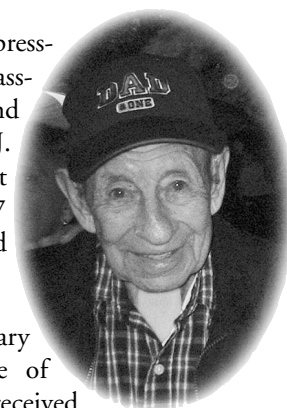
From the original concept created by Chief and Onie, all the way through to the current stewardship of service of Seth and Toby, there has always been a Brewster in a leadership position at Birch Rock, ensuring that the founding principles of 'character and community' are as evident today as they were in 1926. It is also important to remember that Birch Rock stands alongside other great New England institutions such as Kimball Union Academy, Country Day School, Deerfield Academy, and now St. Paul's Academy, where the Brewsters have made tremendous contributions to the great legacy of education in New England. The Brewster Lodge represents an assurance that there will always be a reminder of the family's dedication to Birch Rock for the generations to come."



Mike Deneault

February 25, 1917 – July 23, 2007

The Birch Rock Community expresses its heart-felt sadness in the passing of our great former leader and fellow Birch Rocker, Harold J. "Mike" Deneault. Mike died at home on Monday, July 23, 2007 with his children: Ann, Jason and Michael by his side.



Born in Burlington, VT, February 25, 1917, he was a graduate of Burlington High School. He received his Associates Degree from Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, NH.

A WWII veteran of the US Army, he served from 1944 until 1946 in the European Theatre with the 117th General Hospital.

Mike was an Athletic Trainer and Coach at Kimball Union Academy and Milton Academy for many years retiring in 1982. He and his beloved wife Phyllis became devoted to Birch Rock Camp after having worked there for many summers. The protégé of BRC trip leader legend, Buc Hard, Mike led canoe trips in Maine and New Hampshire. He and his wife Phyllis also worked closely with Camp founders William "Chief" and Onie Brewster. After "Chief" Brewster's passing, Onie Brewster invited Mike and his wife, Phyllis, to be the Directors of Birch Rock Camp.

Mike and Phyllis Holden were married April 17, 1944 at Fort Devens, MA. They celebrated 57 years of marriage before her passing on March 29, 2002.

One of Mike's parting wishes to his children was to have the engraving of Birch Rock's motto, "Help the Other Fellow" on his tomb stone. Even when he was struggling with his own pain, Mike thought about the welfare of others. He also was a great role model for leadership. The plaque on the outer wall of Deneault's Den, which was dedicated to Mike and Phyllis in July 2006 reads as "Lead by Example." Mike Deneault was a true gentleman whose signature wave, great smile and sense of humor will fondly be remembered.

A Celebration of Mike's Life was held at his home in Lanesboro, MA and attended by Fellow Birch Rock Directors David Weeks and Toby Brewster on August 12, 2007. The Birch Rock Family has set up a memorial scholarship in recognition of Mike and Phyllis Deneault to be awarded annually.

Eli, Peter and Seth. Both of Carol's sons Seth and Toby have joined her in actively participating on the Board of Trustees and perpetuating the leadership of the Brewster family.

Birch Rock, like other summer camps, is a unique community, whose fundamental purpose is to bring children together in a safe, nurturing environment and to provide an opportunity for children to learn without the pressures and distractions that are ever present during the academic year. A free and spirited oasis of lifelong learning, Birch Rock promotes cooperation, builds self-confidence and encourages a willingness to try new things. Campers are challenged to take responsibility for their own lives and are encouraged to appreciate the needs of others in practicing the camp motto: **HELP THE OTHER FELLOW.**

One of the best residential boys' camps in Maine, Birch Rock has established a high standard for its camp program and facility. This standard is firmly grounded in the traditions established by founders Chief and Onie Brewster and perpetuated by the leadership of their children and grandchildren. Just as the graceful white birch upon the rock remains strong against the forces of nature, so will the legacy of the Brewster family keep the fire of Birch Rock burning for many years to come.

A VIEW FROM THE TOP

By Mike Mattson, Camp Director



In my twenty-five summers associated with the Rock, the summer of 2007 would have to be one of the best. Our staff this summer was a

tight unit, willing to do whatever it took to make our campers "a happy, healthy, hustling, hopping, howling band." Also, this summer's kitchen crew did an amazing job serving up hot, delicious meals filled with spice and creativity. Most of all, our campers were sensational young boys, and we hope to get many of them back next year.

This summer, BRC's 81st, we had a plethora of states and countries represented at the Rock. The demographics are impressive with 58 campers from New England, 29 from the Mid-Atlantic region, 6 campers from the Midwest, 4 from the South, 2 from the West, 1 from Hawaii and 7 campers from outside the United States. Other countries represented this summer included France, Spain, Israel, Greece and Argentina. The Birch Rock word is spreading all over the world thanks to the Internet and thanks to all of you.

Please continue to spread the word about our great community. If you know of a boy who would be perfect for the Rock, please do not hesitate to send their information to us or direct them to our website at www.birchrock.org. Thank you for your help, we truly appreciate it



Enjoy Birch Rock in the fall, winter and spring!

Birch Rock welcomes families, alumni and friends in the off-season @ Chief's Cabin. It is a terrific place for people interested in skiing, fall foliage, or just a "Maine Escape" to relax and retreat. Equipped with a full kitchen and sleeps 8, Chief's Cabin at the Rock is an amazingly peaceful place in the fall, winter and spring with sensational views of sunsets, wildlife, and nature. For more information about this home away from home contact us at BRC's winter office (207) 741-2930 or birchrock@aol.com.



BRC appreciates your contribution to the camp community. Some items we wish for are:

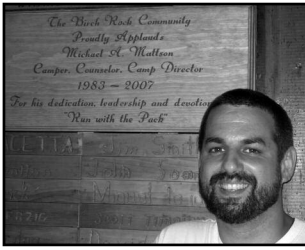
Used Automatic Pick Up Truck
Old Push Lawnmowers
Framed Backpacks
Two Man Tents
New Commercial Convection Oven
Kayak & Canoe Paddles
Tennis Court Resurfacing (\$4000)
Art Supplies
Nature Program Equipment
New Swim Docks
Heart Defibrillator

Birch "Rock is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation.
All donations received are tax-deductible.

Please contact us at birchrock@aol.com if you might be able to accommodate any of these wishes.

Thank you!

BIRCH NEWS BRIEFS



MICHAEL MATTSON

Celebrates 25 Years

The Birch Rock Community was proud to acknowledge and celebrate Mike's commitment and tenure to BRC on Alumni Day, August 4th. A special plaque handcrafted by Todd Vincentsen '80s and presented by the Board of Trustees and campers: *For his dedication, leadership and devotion to "Run with the Pack."* **Congratulations, Mike**



RICH DEERING *Elected President of MYCA*

At the annual meeting of Maine Camp Directors at Camp O-At-Ka on Sebago Lake, Birch Rock's Rich Deering was elected for a 2 year term as President of the Maine Youth Camping Association. MYCA is comprised of over 120 licensed Maine Residential and Day Youth Camps and is a 501c3 organization committed to the educational, public advocacy, environmental and recreational opportunities for children in organized youth programs.

BIRCH ROCK'S NEWEST WHALES

The 2007 season adds nine more amazing swimmers who persevered around McWain Pond. Congratulations to Andy Churchill, Zach Lynn, Chris Cogswell, Robert Donahue, Robert David Weeks, Nick Rios, Owen Knights, Pat Bowden, and Dimitri Cavoulacos Great work and congratulations, Gentlemen!



~ New Birch Rock Trustees ~

Birch Rock Camp is pleased to welcome and announce the election of new camp trustees who will be serving the camp community for the next three years: Spaulding Goetze '80s, father of Spaulding Goetze Jr. of Hot Sulphur Springs, Co; Lindsay and Geoffrey Alexander, parents of Will and Curtis Alexander of Cape Elizabeth, ME; and Peter '80s and Amy Young, parents of Nathaniel and Toby Young of Burlington, VT.

Biroca Blast Dedicated to Mark Sutherland -aka The Weaz

The BRC Senior Campers dedicated this year's camp season's book to "The Weaz.:" *Beyond his charisma and leadership, is true intelligence and compassion: Intelligence to navigate the craze that is the ever-changing Birch Rock program; compassion to build friendships; based on trust and brother, with all of the camp. Weaz, thank you, from all of us, for teaching the world that "Help the Other Fellow" is much more than a phrase.*



After a successful 12 day introduction for new campers ages 7-10 last season, BRC is pleased to offer our CUBS Camp program again for 14 days July 20 – August 2, 2008.

BIRCH ROCK CAMP IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2008 SEASON.

For more information, please visit our website at:
www.birchrock.org

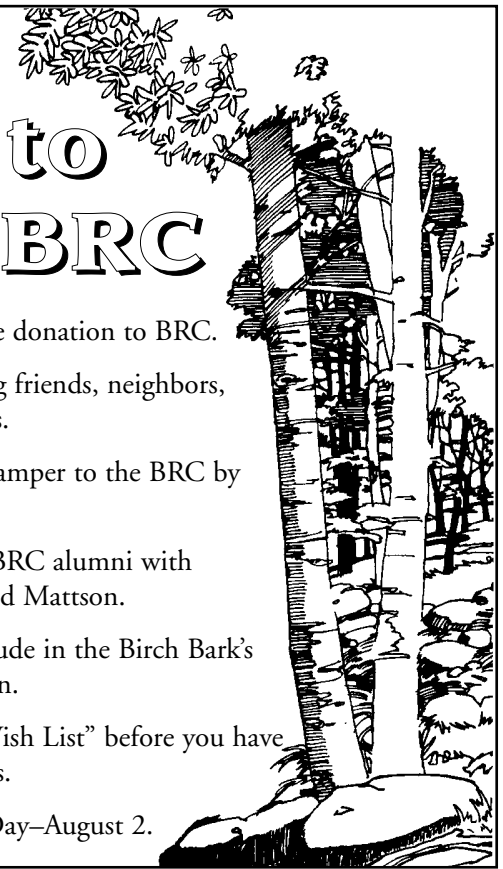
Mark Your Calendars for 2008!



May 31	Spring Clean-Up Work Weekend
June 2	BRC Summer Office Opens
June 16	BRC Staff Orientation
June 21	C.I.T. Orientation
June 25	BRC Opening 1st Session
July 13	BRC 1st Visitation Day
July 19	BRC 1st Session Ends
July 20	BRC Opening 2nd Session
July 20	Cub's Camp
July 20	Maine Wilderness Adventure
August 2	Cub's Camp End
August 3	BRC 2nd Visitation Day
August 10	MWA>Returns
August 12	BRC for Boys ends
August 15	BRC Family Camp Begins
August 19	BRC Family Camp Ends

It's Easy to Help BRC

- Send a tax-deductible donation to BRC.
- Promote BRC among friends, neighbors, family and colleagues.
- Refer a prospective camper to the BRC by phone or email.
- Host a gathering of BRC alumni with Directors Deering and Mattson.
- Send us news to include in the Birch Bark's Alumni News column.
- Ask us about our "Wish List" before you have your spring yard sales.
- Join us for Alumni Day--August 2.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

P.O. Box 148
Waterford, ME 04088

BIRCH ROCK CAMP